

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01503 241426Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----241503 028121 /46
O 241300Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3573

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1503
EXDIS
FOR MESSRS HABIB, TODMAN AND LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CI
SUBJECT: LETTER OF EX-PRESIDENT FREI RE CIA CHARGES

REF: SANTIAGO 1464

1. FEBRUARY 24 SANTIAGO PRESS FEATURES NEWS THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SENT EXPLANATORY LETTERS RE RECENT
PRESS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING PAST CIA PAYMENTS, TO
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND WILLY BRANDT. REPORTS INCLUDE
DIRECT QUOTES EXPRESSING PRESIDENT'S REGRET OVER PUBLICATION
OF ALLEGATIONS IN MEDIA NOT UNDER USG CONTROL.

2. THIS PUBLICITY HEIGHTENS IMPORTANCE OF OUR GETTING
BACK TO EX-PRESIDENT FREI WITH A SIMILAR EXPRESSION OF
REGRET AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. FREI IS THE PRE-EMINENT
LEADER OF THE ONLY SUBSTANTIAL AND ACTIVE PRO-DEMOCRATIC
PARTY IN CHILE TODAY. THE JUNTA'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY SUCCESSIVE
ALLEGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PDC'S PAST CONNECTIONS
WITH THE CIA. UVIDIOUS COMPARISONS WILL BE DRAWN --
AND THE JUNTA WILL BE QUICK TO EXPLOIT THEM -- IF WE CANNOT
PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION TO FREI SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN TO
OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE SAME POSITION.

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3. ACCORDINGLY, I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE DEPARTMENT
WILL BE ABLE TO AUTHORIZE ME SOONEST TO
CONVEY THE PRESIDENT'S REGRETS TO FREI, IN TERMS SIMILAR
TO THOSE USED FOR THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT. AS A GUIDE-
LINE, I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING TEXT.

4. QUOTE: PRESIDENT CARTER HAS AUTHORIZED ME TO INFORM

YOU THAT RECENT PRESS REPORTS ALLEGING THAT YOU RECIEVED FUNDS FROM THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAVE CAUSED HIM GREAT CONCERN. HE HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS PERSONAL REGRET AND THAT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR ANY EMBARRASSMENT YOU MAY HAVE SUFFERED.

5. QUOTE: YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THE MEDIA OF COMMUNICATION IN OUR COUNTRY AND CANNOT PREVENT THE PUBLICATION OF STATEMENTS EVEN IF THEY ARE UNFOUNDED.

END QUOTE.

6. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST WHETHER I MAY INCLUDE SOMETHING ALONG FOREGOING LINES IN A LETTER OF REPLY TO FREI.
POPPER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION INSERTED PER MR. PERITO, S/S-O

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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